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The Playground

The World at Play



Championship, 1916, West Side Tennis Club, Forest Hills, L. I. How Courts May Be Laid Out on a Large Scale

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The Playground

Published monthly at Cooperstown, New York

FOR THE
**PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA**

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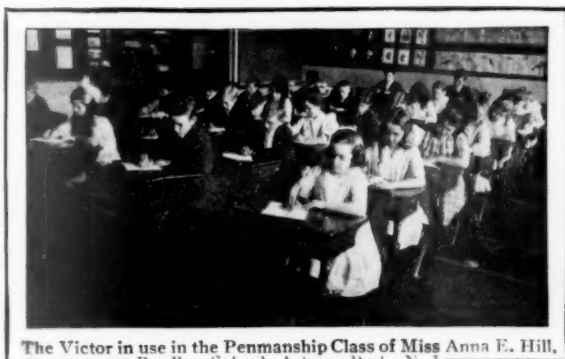
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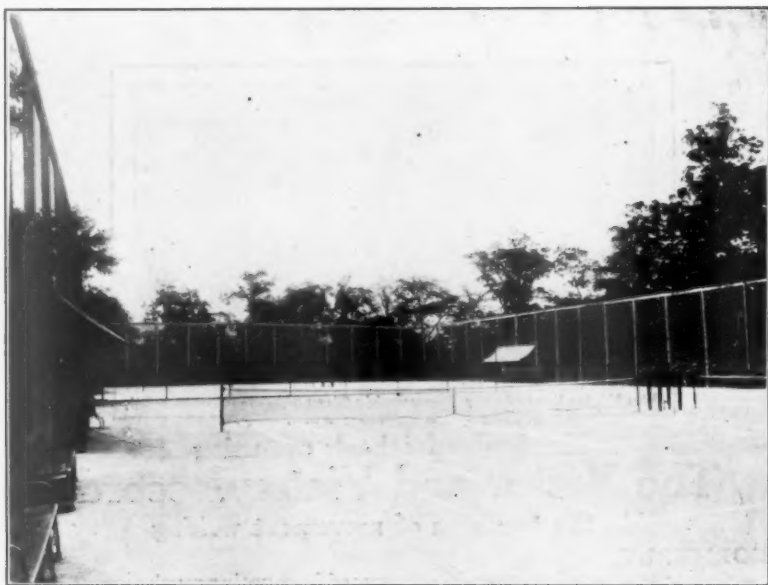
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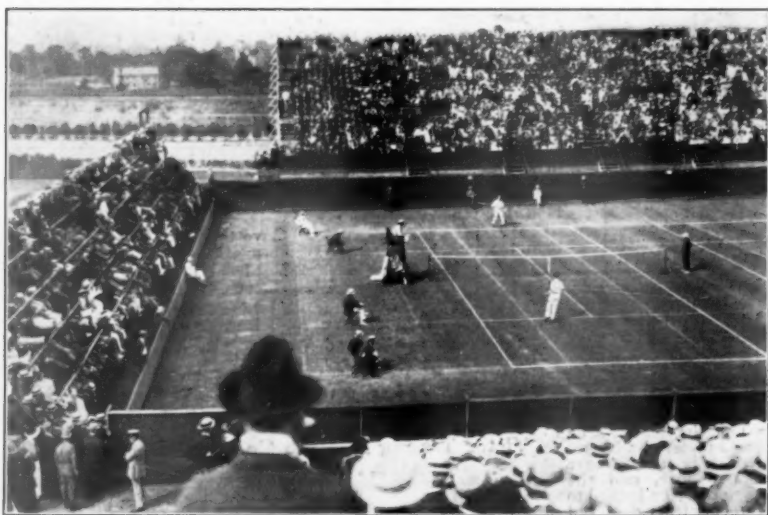
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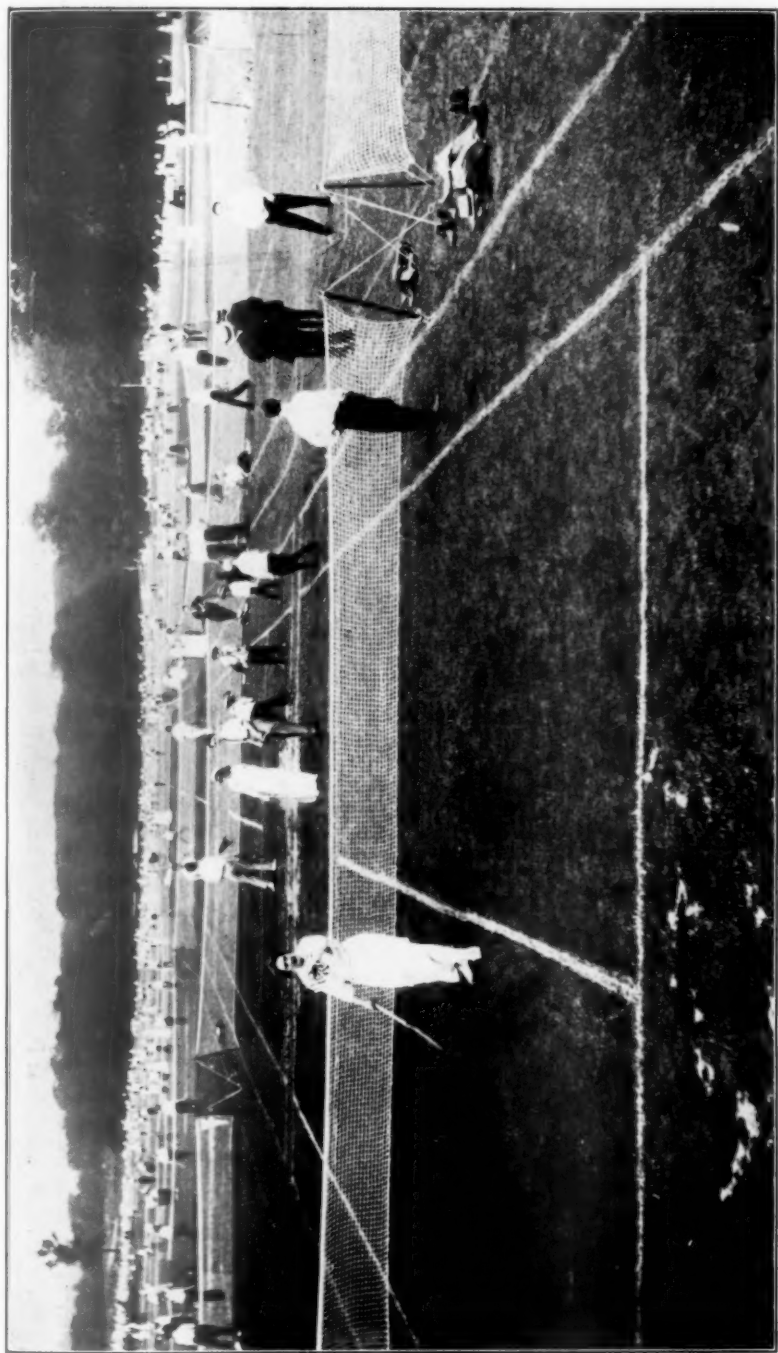




Clay court showing distance that should separate court from back stops at sides and ends; seats for officials, umpire's table. On the right it is apparent that the ground has been cut down leaving a terrace, in order to get proper level for court



Tennis Courts at Forest Hills, Long Island. McLoughlin and Pell in Championship Game



Department of Parks, Borough of Brooklyn

Tennis courts in Prospect Park; 300 grass courts, all double, open from 9 a. m. to 7 p. m. accommodate all who desire to play, except Saturday when the day is divided into five two-hour periods. Six thousand can play here in a day



Department of Parks, Borough of Brooklyn

Parade Grounds, Prospect Park. Thirty-nine and one-half acres are used for 25 baseball and 7 cricket fields, converted into 6 Rugby and 4 soccer football fields in the fall. A lawn for bowling is also provided. The field house contains 64 rooms, 528 lockers, 22 shower baths. Usual attendance Saturday and Sunday afternoons, 28,000

THE WORLD AT PLAY

Personnel of the New York Military Training Commission.

Eager and almost fearful suspense became enthusiastic satisfaction on the part of workers with boys in New York State when these appointments were announced by Governor Whitman. What might have been a very real danger, physically and mentally to boys in their teens has become a tremendous educational advantage through the appointment of educational leaders who know that the best way to conserve the boy's strength for the service of his country is through play and recreational activities. The Commission is composed of Dr. John H. Finley, Major-General John F. O'Ryan, and Dr. George J. Fisher.

How Girls Can Help their Country.—Handbook for Girl Scouts. The recently issued handbook of the Girl Scouts of America gives instructions for starting the work, the law of the scouts, honors, promotions. It is the first complete outline of the aims and methods of the movement. Play and recreation of course form an important part of the activities. One chapter of the handbook is devoted to games and athletics.

Colonel Roosevelt Speaks for Playgrounds.—The New

York press reports that, advocating a general clean-up to check the spread of poliomyelitis in Oyster Bay, Theodore Roosevelt declared for playgrounds for the community as well. "I think this a most opportune time to do something about a playground for the children. This matter has been mentioned for some time, and I have heard it said that the township is without funds. Let me tell you that a number of men have told me that they are willing to pay part of the expense. We will all chip in and see that the kiddies have some place in the open where they can play and enjoy themselves."

Exporting the American Playground Required Reading.—The articles by C. M. Goethe under the above title now appearing in *The Survey* have been placed upon the required reading list of the recreation course in the summer school of the University of California.

A Letter from China.—"I should greatly miss the monthly visits of *THE PLAYGROUND* and my friends would too. The magazine has been suggestive and helpful. I have regularly passed it on to others whom I have wanted to interest in the movement. The movement in

China is growing rapidly. Amoy is one of the first Chinese cities to employ playground directors. The chamber of commerce there is financing an American director for three years. The Governor of Kiang Su has issued instructions for opening eighty playgrounds. The Y. M. C. A. is holding a special training school for the directors of these. The government college at Nanking has opened a two-year course for training playground directors."

Municipal Appropriation in India.—The Ballighata Demonstration Playground announces that a great forward step has been taken in British Indian playground development. Ballighata is a suburb of Calcutta. The playground there, it will be remembered, was opened along the lines of similar demonstration playgrounds in America. Its object is, through the high standard of its own work, eventually to influence all India to adopt the best from our American playgrounds and our American school social centers. Some time ago information arrived from Ballighata that a second, afterwards that a third playground had been opened in Calcutta.

Now comes the news, not only of a fourth, but, what is of much greater importance, the fact that the first appropriation

has been made of municipal funds in India, an empire containing about one-fourth of the world's population. At Bawani-pore the municipality has joined wealthy Hindus in financing their playground. Similar steps have been taken at Mirzapore playground. Coming during the war, this is especially significant. Those who are supporting and carrying on the original Ballighata playground had little hope of such success until after peace had come.

Those who remember the beginnings of the playground movement in America look forward with confidence to these transplanted American institutions playing their part in the upbuilding of the new India, as they are also in the new China.

Saving the Beaches for the People.—Three aldermen in Chicago have started out to secure beaches for all the people. Every possible site for a public bathing beach, from Evanston to the Indiana line, even including stretches now held by exclusive clubs, has been surveyed. It may be that a five million dollar bond issue—perhaps ten millions—will be submitted to the people in November as a result of this survey.

Zoning Law an Aid to Family Life.—The promoters of the new law of New York City which makes certain dis-

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tricts definitely and permanently residential in character believe the law will promote family life and citizenship, "for, as the character of neighborhoods becomes assured families will settle down in one place instead of constantly shifting about as they do now. Localities will be formed; neighborhood spirit will grow; social and community consciousness will develop and people as groups will take more and more interest in the affairs both social and civic of their neighborhood."

Public Comfort Stations Where Needed.—The Public Comfort Station Bureau of the National Committee of the Confederated Supply Association has undertaken a very extensive plan to place comfort stations which shall really be comfort stations throughout the country, so that pedestrians, motorists and even aeronauts may find conveniences where they travel as train travellers do at stations and upon trains. Maps, guides, information, telephone booths, vending machines, newspaper and periodical booths, toilets, writing paper, hot and cold water, soap, in hard-water localities a water-softening apparatus for supplying soft water for automobile radiators—all these will the true comfort station supply. Where cities are far apart, the plan is to arrange

for townships or counties to erect community buildings along the line of travel, where auditoriums for lectures and moving pictures, libraries, dance-halls and headquarters for militia may be provided as well as the comfort station.

The Public Comfort Station Bureau is desirous of getting in touch with those contemplating the erection of such buildings so that each one may be a part of the whole plan.

National Baseball Federation.—The national amateur baseball championship will be decided each year through games played under the auspices of the National Baseball Federation, which has already attracted considerable attention. To gain membership in the Federation a city must organize an association representing as many as possible of the clubs in the city. The officers of the National Baseball Federation are: president, C. C. Townes, of Cleveland; first vice-president, C. W. Sturr, of Cincinnati; second vice-president, R. H. Abeken, St. Louis; secretary-treasurer, Tom Nokes, Johnstown, Pa.; members of executive committee, W. D. Gresham, Birmingham; Samuel Karpf, Dayton; W. B. Bickford, Chicago.

"Company" Holiday.—The Calumet and Hecla Mining Company suspended operations for

THE WORLD AT PLAY

twenty-four hours July fifteenth (in the midst of fabulous copper prices) to celebrate the semi-centennial of the discovery of the "conglomerate" lode of copper-bearing rock. The men were paid as usual. As part of the festival program 1355 medals were presented to veteran employees. Twenty thousand people participated in the play day, including not only mine workers and their families, but office workers, superintendents and even officials from the eastern offices.

First Equipment for Small Playground.—A. E. Metzdorf in a special report prepared for the Playground and Recreation Association of America for a town about to open its first small playground, recommended the following equipment:

- 1 Home plate (can be made of wood)
- 3 Bases
- 1 Pitcher's plate (can be made of wood)
- Baseballs. Victor league balls known as "seconds" can be purchased at \$7.50 per dozen. A less lively ball known as the "Amateur League Ball" can be used for smaller boys. Cost \$4.00 per dozen
- 4 Men's bats at 75c each
- 4 Boys' bats at \$4.00 per dozen
- 1 Boy's mask at 90c
- 1 Man's mask at \$1.50
- 1 Catcher's glove at \$4.00
- 1 First baseman's mitt at \$1.50

- 2 Sets of quoits (3 lb.)
- 2 Indoor baseballs (14 inch) at \$1.00
- 1 Indoor baseball bat at \$.50
- 1 Volley ball at \$3.00
- 1 Volley ball net at \$1.50
- 1 Basket ball at \$4.00
- 6 Bean bags (can be made)
- 1 Tall flag pole (tree)
- 1 American flag
- 1 Phonograph at \$25.00
- 1 Set of folk dance records at \$5.00
- 1 Slide at \$40.00
- 6 Pr. F. 20 ball bearing swing hangers (if possible) at \$18.90
- 6 Hinge fastenings for under side of teeter boards at \$12.00
- 1 W 3 giant stride complete at \$38.25
- 1 W 4 giant stride without pipe upright at \$24.75
- 2 Sand boxes 12' x 12'
- 1 Set of basket ball goals
- 1 Set of basket ball back stops

Cost for Playgrounds.—The cost per day of attendance for each individual enjoying the East Orange, N. J., playgrounds was \$.024. Had there been no use made of the grounds other than the baseball games the cost would have been but twenty cents per person in attendance for games easily worth fifty cents admission. If there had been no other activity than tennis, the cost per game would have been but sixteen cents.

Checking Up.—Several cities have found that children leave

the playground early and go to other places of amusement without the knowledge of their parents, the fathers and mothers believing that the children are out on the playground. To meet this difficulty, several times arrangements have been made to notify the parents as to just the time when the younger children leave the playground each night and the time the older children leave, so parents may know when to expect the children.

Has the Right Spirit.—William V. Crawford, of the Department of Parks, Lawrence, Mass., writes as follows:.

"I received the February number of *THE PLAYGROUND* containing the Year Book and wish to thank you for same. I take great pleasure in reading *THE PLAYGROUND* and can hardly wait from month to month for it to arrive. It has proved itself an able advisor to us, and especially to me who knew absolutely nothing about playgrounds. It is a grand thing and I am glad to be identified with the work even in a small degree. My duties are those of a clerk in the Park Department but I find an hour or two occasionally in the playground season to slip out upon some one of the playgrounds and become a child again. I fairly delight in the work and am glad to become known and loved

by the children. I have a boy and girl of my own, the former will be old enough to enroll on one of our grounds this summer. I believe that we should become better men and women if we could devote more of our time to the play of children, in attempting to lead them away from the streets and unconsciously mould them into better citizens. I hope to see our playground system grow until there is a ground within easy reach of every child in Lawrence. We have managed to open a new playground each year and I believe the mayor, who makes out the budget, is very happily inclined to favor our opening two new grounds this coming season. We have enrolled just about one-sixth of the children of elementary school age, but hope that as the number of grounds increase, the enrollment will gradually become larger until we have practically all the children off the street. We have about every nationality that comes into this country, but witnessing the children at play one sees but Americans in spirit, vying with one another only in efforts to win a first place for their grounds, their instructor or themselves. I am sending you herewith a few newspaper clippings which will give you an idea of our work in 1915."

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Abbie Condit, New York City, Assistant, Playground and Recreation Association of America

From the first speech on the opening night of the sessions of the Recreation Congress held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 2-6, when Joseph Lee talked of football and the war, to the closing speech on Friday night when Miss Julia Lathrop of the Children's Bureau of Washington defined the recreation movement as "an attempt to make that third of life which is not spent in work and sleep as rich and enriching as possible," the play spirit in its more serious and its lighter moments held full sway.

They were there in full force—these advocates of play—from Massachusetts and the eastern states to North Dakota and California, mayors, park commissioners, school superintendents, teachers, members of chambers of commerce, social workers, playground officials, playground workers—all were represented, many of them coming as official delegates appointed by governors of states; and the fact that this great movement for wholesome play and recreation is not confined to our own country was brought home to us all when the representative from the other America stood up and through an interpreter told in a most impressive manner of what they are doing in his country of Uruguay to provide recreation for all.

Never did time seem so fleeting! The mornings were not nearly long enough for all the section meetings which were planned. Often five meetings were conducted from 9:30 to 10:30 and the delegate would find it necessary to choose whether he would hear Harold Berg of Milwaukee tell of the New Neighborhood Center or Mr. Dickie of Oakland speak on Games and Contests, or John R. Richards of Chicago talk on Ways and Means, or Lee F. Hammer offer suggestions for the Laying-out of Playgrounds; or should he attend the section on Rural Recreation which proved so vital a part of the Congress proceedings. Truly an embarrassment of riches! And at 10:30 in the morning again came the choice between other sectional meetings which he might attend. Should it be Group Organization or Budgets, Recreation Buildings or Swimming-Pools? And no less difficult did he find the choice among luncheons, for they talked while they ate—these men and

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION

women who make a serious business of play. Physical Preparedness, Boys' Clubs, Civic Forums, Volunteers in Recreation Work, A New Profession, Summer Camps, Athletic Badge Tests, Games, Adult Recreation—all these were discussed at the various luncheons and here again a choice must be made. Only the general sessions at 11:30 o'clock each morning and the evening meetings at 8:00 each night offered no alternative. At the morning sessions such topics were discussed as the Municipal Neighborhood Recreation Center, The Aim and Scope of the Recreation Movement, Music in a Democracy, The Play School of the University of California, The State Work of the Public Athletic League of Baltimore, and to discuss these problems had come such busy men and women as George A. Bellamy of Cleveland, Ira Jayne of Detroit, E. A. Peterson of Cleveland, Prof. and Mrs. Clark Hetherington of the University of Wisconsin, Prof. Dykema of the University of Wisconsin, Dr. William Burdick of Baltimore—men and women whose contribution to the play movement cannot be measured. And at night, after the singing which, under the direction of Professor Dykema and Mr. Beattie, made the huge coliseum ring with the melodies of the south and the stirring music of our national songs, which drew all together in that unity of spirit which was the key-note of this Congress, came the privilege of listening to such men and women as Joseph Lee, President of the Recreation and Playground Association of America; George J. Fisher of the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A., who told the story of play in various lands, which, as he truly said, read like a romance; Deputy-Warden Spencer Miller of Sing Sing prison with his plea for the preventive work of the recreation movement, Elizabeth Burchenal of the Public Schools Athletic League of New York City, advocating the folk dance as another means for self-expression, for beauty and for grace; Alfred G. Arvold, whose account of the little country theatre in North Dakota and the drama as a means of reaching the heart of the rural district with a vision of liberty through self-expression was inspiring in its simplicity and strength; Governor Ferris of Michigan, whose firm stand as a champion of the recreation movement will mean much, not only to recreation in Michigan, but in other states; Miss Julia Lathrop, Chief of the Children's Bureau in Washington, who in her work has laid so much emphasis on play—all these men and women brought messages which will not soon be forgotten by those who came from all parts of our country and Canada to receive just this inspiration.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION

None who attended the Congress at Grand Rapids will soon forget the banquet held Wednesday night, which more than anything else marked the tenth anniversary of the birth of the Playground and Recreation Association of America—for there were with us there three of the founders of the Association who met together ten years ago at Washington. These three pioneers, as well as the distant ones who could not be present, the banqueters were proud to honor. Such spontaneous burstings of song, such cheers, such a spirit of enthusiasm! No banquet has ever so effectively linked together the workers in any movement! And as the field secretaries of the Association told of their failures, their successes, the ultimate goal toward which all were working, as they interpreted the meaning and soul of the recreation movement, there came an inspiration and a feeling of unity which above anything else, will stand out in the minds of many as the crowning point of the Congress.

And how they played—these people who are making it possible for others to play! Grand Rapids never before saw elderly men and women playing *Follow the Leader* in their streets! The orchestra engaged to play for the dancing after the banquet will not soon recover from the shock of discovering that one-steps were not popular with these people who wanted the Virginia Reel and Roman Soldiers and who played the games they had never before seen anyone but little children play. And one afternoon there was given to the playground directors who had held the athletic badge tests for their own children, an opportunity to try out the tests for themselves and no easy matter they found it as fat and thin, tall and short, they sped over the ground in the 220-yards dash or painfully chinned themselves the required number of times. And on another afternoon the games and contests which were conducted at Grand Rapids gave the delegates an opportunity to "do themselves proud." It was a wonderful score which the recreation workers from the west piled up against their less active eastern brothers in indoor baseball—but the recreation secretaries were not a match for the field secretaries in the famous volley ball games which took place that afternoon. At one end of the field a group of folk dance enthusiasts under Miss Burchenal's direction, made a charming picture as they danced and danced until twilight drove them to the hotel. There was, too, the demonstration at Baseball Park in which the children at Grand Rapids in their games and folk dances showed how wonderfully they had

HOW TO BUILD AND KEEP A TENNIS COURT

caught the play spirit; and once again the delegates played when on Wednesday afternoon the citizens of Grand Rapids with gracious hospitality put their automobiles at the disposal of the delegates and showed them the city which had proved so kindly a host to the Recreation Congress of 1916. The hard work, the enthusiasm, the faith of Grand Rapids people made such a Congress possible and among the cities which have been hosts of the Playground and Recreation Association of America Grand Rapids will always have a high place.

HOW TO BUILD AND KEEP A TENNIS COURT

Paul B. Williams, Field Secretary, United States National Lawn Tennis Association, New York City

Before building a tennis court two things must be considered—sun and rain. Although these may seem to have little to do with playing tennis, the fact remains that they are of the greatest importance when locating a tennis court. In the first place, the court should be laid out from north to south; this will avoid having the sun in the player's eyes early in the morning or late in the afternoon, as would be the case if the court lay from east to west.

But when considering the position of the court with reference to the sun, it is also important to have an eye for its immediate surroundings. The court should be laid out so that a dark background may be provided, against which the ball will be plainly visible when it is in play. Thick shrubbery or a hedge which makes a solid green effect is suitable for this purpose. Trees should not be so near the court that their shadows will fall across it, nor should there be any shrubbery with scattering foliage, which will permit sunlight to flicker through. Shadows of all sorts are to be avoided.

So much for the sun. When it rains, another problem of tennis court construction is immediately apparent—drainage. No court can be successfully built unless this problem is given serious attention. Therefore its location should be determined so as to avoid low swampy places or sloping ground where the tendency of that adjacent is to drain upon the site of the proposed court. Obviously therefore a level plot should be selected and if this has natural drainage so much the better.

HOW TO BUILD AND KEEP A TENNIS COURT

The next feature to consider is the type of court. The principal tournaments in the United States are played on grass and most tennis players consider that the turf surface, when properly made, is the best. If much playing is to be done on the court, however, the grass will become badly worn at the service lines unless there is space enough to permit the court to be shifted from time to time. The turf also requires much attention to keep it free from weeds and maintain a smooth surface so that the balls will bound true.

Asphalt is used for courts and some have been built of concrete. Courts are made with wood covered with canvas, too, but throughout the country clay is generally the favorite surface. Another type of construction which has been successfully adopted both in Europe and in the United States is the *en tout cas*. In this a top-dressing of finely-broken brick is applied to a very well-built foundation. It is porous and drains rapidly so that such a court may be played on within a few minutes after rain has fallen on it. A dirt court when properly laid out and cared for wears very well and probably offers the best combination of durability, a reasonable construction cost and upkeep expense.

Having in mind the question of drainage, the nature of the soil where the court is to be laid out is an important factor. If the soil is of clay so that it is rather impervious to water more attention must be paid to the drainage than is the case when a rather loose sandy soil prevails. Years ago it was the practice to build practically all dirt courts on a crushed rock foundation, but more recently courts have been built without going to this expense.

Right here it might be well to state that no hard and fast rule can be laid down for court construction. Local conditions vary so greatly that it is impossible to set forth any specifications which will meet every condition. At the best one can give only principles which are more or less general in their application, but they should serve to make plain the theory of tennis court construction, the practice being modified as circumstances may require.

With the foregoing as a preface, it may be said that usually the best way to proceed in building a dirt court is to cut away the earth to a depth of about one foot. This space must be carefully leveled to be sure that the grade is right. A pitch of one inch from either end toward the middle of the court will drain it well enough, or a couple of inches from side to side.

HOW TO BUILD AND KEEP A TENNIS COURT

After the leveling process is completed, the general practice is to put in about six inches of broken stone. The kind that is used for macadamizing is all right. The size should range from a couple of inches down to an inch or less in diameter. This layer must be pounded down very hard. Then a three-inch layer of finely-broken stone or crushed gravel should be put on. More pounding is required to get this firmly in place and it should be well watered for several days in order to work the material together. Every effort should be made to avoid any inequalities in the surface, for the foundation must be kept perfectly level and smooth. After it has been carefully watered, rolled and pounded, the top-dressing may be applied.

This is a more particular part of the job because if care is not exercised at this point the playing surface will be unsatisfactory. A mixture of sand and clay is used, but the proportions vary greatly. If the clay is sticky, one part of sand to four of clay is a good mixture. Usually, however, the proportion runs about eight of clay to one of sand. If the court seems very soft when finished, it needs more clay; if the surface is sticky, more sand is required.

This top layer should be from three to six inches thick. After it is applied, the court should be well watered and rolled a couple of times daily for about two weeks before it is used. Every effort must be made to keep the surface free from hollows or humps, but by light raking, careful rolling and sprinkling, a true and firm surface can be obtained.

In many cases it is not necessary to use a stone foundation. Then the process is to cut away the top soil to a depth of several inches until the firm subsoil is reached. Then a true grade must be established which means that all irregularities in the surface must be eliminated. Probably some hollows will have to be filled or the grade raised on one part of the court, and if this is done a heavy roller must be used to pack the new made ground firmly. One of a couple of tons weight is not too heavy for this purpose, but if the smaller hand roller must be used, persistent rolling will bring about a satisfactory result. The earth must be thoroughly wet in the afternoon after the day's rolling is done to aid it in settling. In rolling it is well to cross the court in every direction, going at right angles each way and then diagonally. From two to four inches of top-dressing of clay and sand should be used, this being raked into the under soil. Unless this raking

HOW TO BUILD AND KEEP A TENNIS COURT

is carefully done, the top-dressing will form a distinct layer and the results will not be so satisfactory as when it is carefully worked into the subsoil.

As in the case with a court having a rock foundation, drainage can be accomplished by having the court slope from the ends toward the middle with a drop of an inch or an inch and a half or have it slope from the center of the base lines toward each side. Drain tiles cut in half can be laid from the middle of the court to follow the natural grade in carrying off the water or they can be laid at the ends or sides as the circumstances may require.

If you are fortunate enough to have a smooth level lawn it will be much simpler to lay off the court on that and enjoy playing on turf. Rarely, however, is grass found which is suitable for lawn tennis without considerable attention. When it is possible to employ an expert, the same general rules as to foundation will be followed as in the more expensive types of dirt courts. Sometimes very satisfactory results can be obtained without this expense. First the sod should be taken up in pieces about eighteen inches square, cutting down about six inches. The sod should be handled carefully and replaced as soon as possible. Then all the space which has been stripped should be thoroughly spaded and the stones removed. The ground must be raked and leveled with great care and thoroughly rolled with a heavy roller.

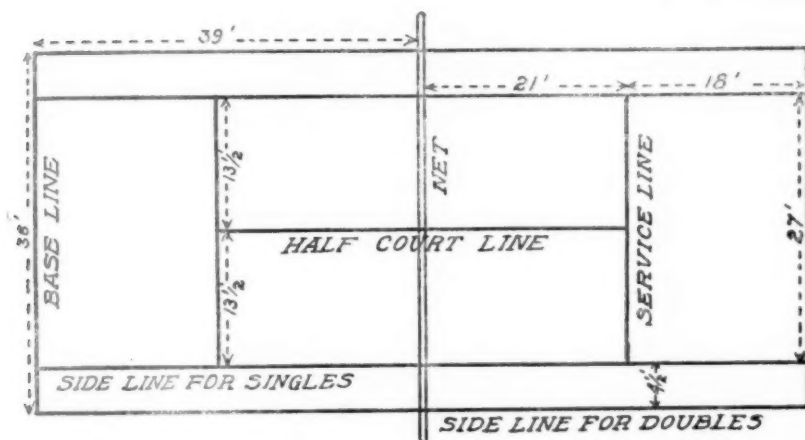
This part of the work cannot be overdone and in addition to the rolling, the settling process should be assisted by a generous sprinkling. After an absolutely level surface has been obtained the sods may be replaced, the work being done in the afternoon and the turf sprinkled. Care should be taken to fill all the spaces between the sods and some grass seed may be used on these. Then the rolling and sprinkling process should be continued for a number of days before the court is played upon. If hollows appear, the turf in that spot should be taken up as above and earth put under to restore the grade and the turf replaced.

A turf court may very well be laid out in the fall because then the settling process may continue during the winter months. Grass seed should be sown in the early autumn, although it can be applied between March fifteenth and May first. To cover a space 60 x 120 feet, such as is desirable for a grass court, about twenty pecks of seed are required. Clover is not looked upon with favor, as it is inclined to be slippery and does not wear well. After the grass has a fair start it should be cut with a scythe or

HOW TO BUILD AND KEEP A TENNIS COURT

sickle and later with a mower. Grass courts should be cut, watered and rolled every day during the playing season.

After the playing surface has been obtained the court must be laid out. This is a simple process although it requires accuracy in the measurements. The singles court is twenty-seven by seventy-eight feet, while the doubles court is thirty-six feet wide. A plan and dimensions for the marking are given herewith.



The net posts should be forty-two feet apart and to mark the court it is necessary to square the lines by these posts. Three feet inside each post drive a stake, these stakes being exactly thirty-six feet apart. Then lay out one side line seventy-eight feet long, passing over one stake which comes at the thirty-nine foot mark or half the length of the side line. By making the distance from each end of the seventy-eight foot line to the opposite stake equal, the side line can be squared and the other laid out in the same manner. It is then simply a matter of measurement to put in the service and base lines.

For a good court, a clear space sixty by one hundred twenty feet is required in order to leave room for the runways at the ends and sides. Therefore the back stops should not be set so close to the court as to cut down open space. Wire netting carried on wood or steel posts is the material generally used for back stops, the type of their construction depending upon individual circumstances.

HOW TO BUILD AND KEEP A TENNIS COURT

No matter what kind of court is built, its durability and the satisfaction of its users depend in great measure upon the care which it receives. The lines should be properly marked of course. For this purpose steel markers are sold which can be driven into the ground and are quite permanent. Canvas tape for side lines is not so much in favor as in years gone by. Most courts are marked with lime, generally put on wet, although some rotary sifting arrangements have been devised for dry lime. The wet markers, however, seem to give the best results. Without one of the machines, it is a simple matter to make what amounts to a stencil for applying whitewash to the lines. This consists of two light boards about three feet long, placed parallel to each other with an open space between them the width of the line; a handle can be put on one end for convenience. With an old broom as a brush, it is easy to go over the lines and fairly good results are obtained.

Both grass and dirt courts should be rolled after being used, but it is useless to do this until any inequalities in the surface have been repaired. This is particularly true with the dirt court. After it has been played upon it should be dragged, using a piece of scantling to weigh down several thicknesses of burlap. This brushes out all of the little irregularities and then the rolling and sprinkling are in order.

If the foregoing suggestions seem rather general, it is due to the fact, already stated, that there are no hard and fast rules which will apply to every case. When expense is no consideration, probably the best results can be obtained by employing some of the experts who specialize on tennis court construction. Under ordinary circumstances, however, it is not a tremendously difficult task to build and keep a tennis court and no one who wishes to enjoy this sport and has space for a court available, should hesitate to build one. Suggestions as to construction, equipment and maintenance can be found in the various publications devoted to lawn tennis or at the office of the United States National Lawn Tennis Association, 20 Broad Street, New York City where the Field Secretary may be addressed and any inquiries pertaining to tennis will receive immediate attention.

MOUNTAIN CAMPS FOR A CITY'S CHILDREN

Arthur Chapman

It is something to be a boy or girl in Denver and take in one of the camping "hikes" arranged all summer long by the Denver Playgrounds Association.

The thing would not be possible were it not for the fact that a few years ago Denver thoughtfully provided itself with a chain of mountain parks. Now there are no mountains in Denver. The nearest one is fourteen miles from the city, across the extreme western edge of the Great Plains which the pioneers traveled. But Denver figured that in this era of cheap transportation by trolley and automobile it did not make much difference about having parks inside the city limits. In fact a park outside the city was rather to be preferred, especially one that could be located on a mountain top in the Rockies. So Denver reached out and annexed two mountain tops for park purposes. The nearest one of these is called Lookout Mountain Park. It is one of the first foothills of the Rockies. It is 2,000 feet higher than Denver, so, if there were not so many larger peaks right behind it, Lookout Mountain would be deemed out of the foothills class. Six miles farther on in the Rockies is Genessee Mountain Park. Both these parks are connected with Denver by splendid mountain roads, and in Genessee Park there is a big herd of elk and several buffalo and mountain sheep.

There are picnic spots galore on these mountains which have been turned into parks. Denver has had the good sense to let the mountains alone so far as possible. It has built houses that are used as shelters in case of severe storms, and outdoor fireplaces for those who want to cook that way instead of over the open fire, but in general the parks are just as Nature left them, and that is what makes them so attractive to everybody and especially the boys and girls.

It did not take Denver long to figure out just how the boys and girls could get the fullest possible use out of the mountain parks. The City Playgrounds Association came to the rescue in a hurry and decided that the parks weren't going to be for the sole use of rich people who owned automobiles. No, indeed! The poorest children of Denver were going to get a lot of benefit out of those parks. Consequently camping parties were organized

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from among the children who were in the habit of coming to the conventional parks and playgrounds inside the city limits. First a party of boys was taken up to the top of Lookout Mountain, and a camp was established. The boys were taught how to pitch their own tents, how to make fires and how to cook. Then, after a day or two, the boys were sent back home on the trolley line which runs to the foot of the mountain, and a lot of girls were brought to the camp ground to get their first experience of real outdoor life. This was kept up all through the summer, till it is safe to say that any boy or girl in Denver who wanted to could get a little real camping experience.

Those who had charge of the Denver camping expeditions found out a lot of interesting things. They found that some of the boys and girls who had been born in Denver and who had grown up there within sight of the snow-capped peaks of the mountains all the time, had never so much as been in the smallest foothill. The mountains had meant absolutely nothing to those boys and girls until the Denver Mountain Parks were created and the playground association began taking the children on those camping parties.

It was marvelous the way those children took hold of camp life. They enjoyed every minute of it. They went for long hikes in the woods, and some walked up to Genessee Peak and beyond. They picked wild flowers and had the camp director tell them the names of all the different kinds they found. They scrambled up and down the sides of the mountain, and at night, when they could see the lights of Denver gleaming far below them, they told stories around the camp-fire and sang songs until bedtime. They went home sunburned but happy. They all had a new idea about the meaning of those big mountains over to the west. They learned of the enjoyments in those big hills, and could tell the names of the animals and many of the wild flowers to be found there.

The Denver Playground Association directors say that if every city had outlying parks like Denver, and could establish children's camps, the health of the growing generation would be greatly improved. As far as Denver is concerned, of course it is lucky in being so near the mountains, but there are other cities that could establish playgrounds beside rivers or on the ocean, or right out in the plain countryside, and could do wonders as Denver is doing in arousing the interest of children in things outside the town.

HOW DOES A RECREATION SECRETARY KEEP BUSY

Two of the big boys in one camping party on Lookout Mountain admitted that they had never been outside of the city limits of Denver before that "hike." But they said they were going to go often from then on, and they meant it. Such is the spirit the Denver Playgrounds Association is trying to encourage. Meantime Denver is just awakening to the fact that when it created its mountain parks so far from town it benefited the children more than it benefited the grownups who paid the taxes and thought they were going to get most of the pleasure out of the playgrounds.

HOW DOES A RECREATION SECRETARY KEEP BUSY?*

Charles Howard Mills, Supervisor of Municipal Recreation,
Grand Rapids, Michigan

I very much doubt if there is one of you who has any idea of what our own year-around little system of municipal recreation consists. With the cooperative aid of the park and school boards, in the summer time, nine playgrounds and seven swimming pools are open. The children go back into school in the fall and are turned out free at 3:30 p. m. daily. There is that same superfluous energy that should be directed into legitimate channels by the city, but unfortunately the park board has never yet been allowed enough in its budget to go on providing leadership after the main summer season. So the fall work is turned over to the public school athletic league. Hundreds of boys are out after school for the great sport of soccer football. It should be made clear that this fall as well as spring work is financed, and should be, by both of the boards. Then in the winter the park board conducts winter sports, the coasting place at John Ball Park and nearly a dozen skating ponds, while I personally give my attention to the other main division of my department, namely, community social and recreation centers in our public schools. In the spring, day after day, games take place, fifty-two teams in the leagues that are fighting out sectional and city championships in the playground ball and baseball. Then there are the track and field athletics still to come. Before the spring season is past, probably 4,000 boys will actually have been drawn into the wholesome sports. And please bear in mind that this is not in one of our most

*Extracts from address before the City Council, Grand Rapids

HOW DOES A RECREATION SECRETARY KEEP BUSY

intensive recreation seasons of the year, which are midsummer and midwinter.

This spring and fall after school and Saturday athletic work does not run along entirely spontaneously and automatically. It takes much time and effort on the part of the supervisor in planning out the games, making schedules, visiting the schools, supervising the referees, and every afternoon being sure to be out on the playground ready for business. We are working out a system that will get hundreds, yes even thousands, of the children into these sports, rather than only the exceptional athletically talented few. We go in strong for the class and mass work. Also there is much to be done in preparing for the summer season.

A long while before the season opens, one starts to select workers, interviews them, corresponds with and looks up references. One must get out, sort and inspect the apparatus—see that it is properly placed. A working force of about nineteen men must be looked after as well as six paid and ten unpaid women directors. One must follow up the grounds and pools day after day and see that they are well and safely run; that rules are enforced; that the public is adequately accommodated; that the workers are on their jobs and that each gets along well in his particular neighborhood. He must see that these workers maintain discipline, not only amuse but teach something worth while; see that conditions are clean and sanitary; check up on all properties that belong to this department. One must be responsible for and be able to account for at any minute every single ball, bat, net and everything from a swing down to a needle and thread, that is used in the work. He must keep approximately accurate records of the visits to the grounds and endeavor to see that every ground is producing its money's worth. If a ground or pool is over-crowded and is dangerous, the most economical but efficient remedy must be figured out. If a ground is not accommodating enough children to pay, one must get busy and find out what the matter is or devise some advertising means.

There is not only this mechanical, so to speak, side of the supervision, but the educational training side. The recreation secretary conducts a regular weekly Monday morning training class for playground directors. He gives instruction in pedagogy, child psychology and most of all, actual play leadership demonstration. Week after week the problems of discipline and others are brought up at these meetings and threshed out. Regu-

HOW DOES A RECREATION SECRETARY KEEP BUSY

lar programs of play, all kinds of athletic leagues and contests that not only take in children of all ages, but all children are devised and put into operation. In all the play leadership of the directors the secretary is watching carefully to see that real character-building lessons are taught, not only strength and courage and skill, but honesty, fair play, cooperation and unselfishness. The recreation secretary conducts great appropriate city celebrations in several different districts of a safe and sane Fourth for several thousand people. Other special days are celebrated as well as different community center play festivals and field-days. In fact, the secretary must do every possible thing, be on the job morning, noon and night, always planning, scheming and putting into operation the methods of work that are going to aid the people to get the most possible physical, mental and moral benefits from their playgrounds and recreation spots.

The social center work means to open and run all the way from five to nine school buildings with programs of intensive social and recreation activities comprising lectures, concerts, motion pictures, variety entertainments, socials, parties and young people's clubs, athletics, gymnastics, dramatics, public speaking and debating, men's civic clubs, boy scouts, girl scouts and other boys' and girls' clubs. Besides this we find quite a few classes typical of the night school creeping into the centers that are not near to a regular night school. Some city official has questioned why so much of the social center budget goes into salaries. That is practically the whole thing—directors to aid the people in producing more and more all the time their own entertainments.

I wonder how many members of this Council attended the final windup of the winter season in the form of our great social center mass meetings at Central High? Three thousand persons from all over the city attended this demonstration.

What do I personally have to do in connection with running this? Not only put in all the daytime, planning, scheming, keeping records, chasing around to different principals and workers, getting the cooperation of outside talent and organizations, but *every* evening go around to school after school, sometimes three in one evening. Not only do I make my entire business simply the few schools specified for official social center work, but I am constantly cooperating in many other schools with mothers' clubs, parents' councils, teachers and parents' associations, that I aid in getting up programs, entertainments, delivering speeches

DEVICES FOUND HELPFUL IN OMAHA

"To sit with your neighbors in your own neighborhood center, listen to the songs of the children and young people from your own household and from the district, to join heartily in the national songs, to laugh with your neighbors, to feel at one with the community in which you live, is to go out a better worker, a better father, a better citizen, a better man."

DEVICES FOUND HELPFUL IN OMAHA

C. H. English, Superintendent of Recreation, Omaha, Nebraska

Since the Recreation Board was created in Omaha a little over a year ago several lines of endeavor have proved to be successful and important in developing a new field. Thinking perhaps the experience which we have had will be of use to other cities we gladly submit to you our results.

Umpire School

Following the lead of Cincinnati in introducing an "Umpire School" we established such a school in Omaha early this spring. We had as our object "To educate and familiarize those attending with the working angles of the rules in the game from the standpoint of the players, umpires and spectators, to furnish supervisors for games to be played upon public diamonds this season." The course included lectures and comparisons of the place of baseball in modern days and in the early stages of its development and a thorough study of the rules. We had enrolled in this school thirty young men over eighteen years of age. The chief supervisor and director of this school was a former player and umpire of the Western League. Other lecturers were former baseball players and umpires. Classes were held Tuesday and Friday nights from March tenth to April sixteenth. We were able to graduate eighteen men.

From the recreation funds, eight hundred dollars were set aside to pay these official umpires one dollar for each game, salaries being paid at the end of the season, thus assuring a permanent organization. All amateur games played upon public property are under the direct control and supervision of these officials. They have full police authority and are required not only to officiate at the game, but to be responsible for the actions of the players and the spectators.

It often happens that the official must stop a game in order

DEVICES FOUND HELPFUL IN OMAHA

to discipline a too anxious or boisterous crowd of spectators. These official umpires in absolute control make the baseball teams realize that tricky, rough-neck tactics are taboo. Greater interest has been awakened in the games because spectators are assured of seeing a clean game, well-managed with comparatively few of the objectionable features so often accompanying an unsupervised game.

Basis for Awarding Championships in Games and Athletic Contests Last summer on our playgrounds in Omaha we used a system of grading and awarding championships for playground ball and volley ball inter-park contests. This system which had been worked out by J. R. Richards, Superintendent of the South Park System, was put into effect in Chicago last year. We have used it here on the playgrounds with so much success that the recent Omaha School Baseball League conducted by one of the local newspapers in cooperation with the school board used this same system. School principals and teachers, as well as the board members are very enthusiastic about the results and recommend it very highly. They have often stated that it has created better feeling and achieved better results in their school work than has any other system before tried. One experience which we had last summer will explain what effect it has upon young people in competitive contests.

One park was located in a community that had a tough reputation. The team from this community had all the earmarks that would substantiate this reputation. When we came upon the crowd they were smoking, chewing and their deportment was generally rough. After explaining the full meaning of this new method of marking the contest to the captain of this team we started the game. During this game on several occasions bad decisions were made by the umpires and the test of our new system came when the captains started their usual rough-neck tactics against the umpires. I called their attention to the scoring system with some effect, but inability to do as they had always done in their games without jeopardizing their standing, was hard for these boys. All of the emotion which was pent up because of these restrictions went into the actual playing and I shall never forget the fierceness of this team's attack. They easily won the game and after it was over, retired to a hill nearby and discussed in their old-time habitual way what they thought of this new scoring system. I afterwards learned that the captain of this team told his team mates that while this new scoring system was rotten,

DEVICES FOUND HELPFUL IN OMAHA

still they were going to win the championship and any team mate that was penalized must suffer after the game, he being the administrator. The result of this scoring system upon those boys, by far the toughest gangsters we had in the city, was remarkable. They went through the entire season with a clean bill. I saw every game they played and I could not take off a single point on sportsmanship.

The effect it had upon these young fellows, I believe, will in a large measure be permanent because they learned to love the better element in the game before the season was over. In this system we emphasize sportsmanship quite as much as the actual winning of the game. A team may win the game and yet lose on sportsmanship and reliability.

Contests are marked on a percentage basis by the officials, as follows: (1) 40 per cent for winning; (2) 35 per cent for clean sportsmanship; (3) 25 per cent for reliability.

Sportsmanship includes: (1) fouls and infractions of rules charged to a team; (2) prompt acceptance of officials' decisions; (3) language and conduct of players during the contest.

Should both teams exhibit good sportsmanship, both will receive credit for same. The spectators and followers of a team, may cause their team to lose twenty-five of a possible thirty-five per cent for sportsmanship.

A request on the part of the captain of a team for an explanation of a rule will not be charged against his team, if such request is to get information as to the meaning of a rule and not a question of the official's judgment. Such request, however, must be made in a courteous manner.

Language and conduct of players refer to swearing, calling names, losing temper and all other kinds of rowdiness.

Reliability includes: (1) promptly appearing for play at the scheduled hour and date. This does not mean that a team will be marked down for postponing a game with another park team by mutual agreement; (2) faithfully carrying out all rules as to registration, weight. This rule is to punish trickery of any kind, whether in trying to fix scales or running in a player or changing batting order.

Note: Under the head of sportsmanship the following schedule of penalties may be made by the person in charge:

Sportsmanship.—Crabbing, 8 per cent, smoking 3 per cent,

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swearing 3 per cent, chewing 3 per cent, display of temper 2 per cent, hooting the umpire 2 per cent.

Reliability.—Teams not appearing within fifteen minutes of the scheduled time will forfeit 10 per cent.

OMAHA'S FIRST PLAYGROUND INSTITUTE

Omaha held its first playground institute beginning March thirteenth and ending June first. We had a total enrollment of two hundred thirty adults, an average attendance of one hundred fifty and fifty-eight graduates. We had a faculty of nine local lecturers and instructors and nine special lecturers. The object of this institute is not to turn out perfectly trained play leaders; it is far too short for that; it is our aim to bring to those who expect to apply for positions on Omaha playgrounds and (any others who may wish to take the course) some knowledge of child nature, of the conditions under which children grow up, of the meaning and function of play and something of the technique of stimulating and directing the play impulses. It is intended to provide the practical training which will be required of play leaders in Omaha this summer.

Most of those who were in attendance were public school teachers. A large majority of those who are now serving on our playgrounds as supervisors received the benefit of this course. So far two of the graduates have gone out into the state in playground work.

The greatest benefit that this institute has given to the community has been to arouse a greater interest in the playground movement of Omaha. It also has been of great assistance in helping the public school teachers in influencing the play life of their schools, particularly at the recess periods.

RESULTS IN PHILADELPHIA'S NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

J. Leonard Mason, Supervisor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

In response to the following notices sent to each principal, full and complete reports of the work accomplished at each center have been sent in.

PHILADELPHIA'S NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

Cover the following points in a written report:

(a) Describe the character of the community in which your recreation center is located.

(b) Describe character of those attending, age, race, conditions, appreciation or non-appreciation.

(c) Enumerate activities: Which activities were regarded as most interesting, and which activities do you think were of the greatest value.

(d) Describe specific instances in which the recreation center has been of value to the individual and to the community.

(e) Submit such recommendations as you think will be of benefit to your recreation center next season, and anything which you think will contribute to the value of the recreation center work as a whole.

Have you noticed the following results? State evidence. Individual Results:

1. More courteous deportment? Manners? Politeness?
2. Proper behavior between young men and women?
3. Response to rules of center? Appreciation of order?
4. Interest in the center?
5. Interest in specific activities?
6. Bringing others to the center?
7. Has any definite interest been awakened?
8. Have any moral or social standards been inculcated, different view points been instilled?

Group Results:

1. Friendly relationship between groups?
2. Corner gangs attending the center?
3. Adult groups attending, and their interest?

Community Results:

1. Community interest in the center?
2. Is it a real community social center?
3. Does the influence of the center touch the homes of the community? How?
4. Is the center appreciated in the community? To what extent?

These reports contain records of many specific cases in which the recreation center has realized its highest aims. The following are quotations from these reports of the principals:

PHILADELPHIA'S NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

"In this neighborhood, there are many cases of mental deficiency shown by the necessity of two special classes for backward and deficient children in the school itself. Many of these have been sent, for incorrigibility, to institutions, as Glen Mills, Spring City. Some of these have returned from these institutions and have reached the age of seventeen and eighteen. They attend the center and while at first they were destructive and defiant of authority, during the past season, many of them took a great interest in the center themselves and tried to aid those in authority in keeping order. They have fallen in with the work of the center and seem to feel as if they were a part of it and that they were responsible for its being carried on successfully. Among the girls may be mentioned several that had caused great trouble during their school days, who had been incorrigible and very difficult to handle. They attended the center for quite a while and seemed to take great interest in the work by bringing a number of other girls with them.

"There seemed to be a lack of coherency and unity among the groups at first. A group would be very full one night and the next night there might be very few of the same group. The individuals, with a few exceptions, seemed to be very undependable. They could not be relied upon. When the minstrel show was inaugurated, the ones who had the principal parts could never be depended upon to be at rehearsal when desired. Towards the end, however, the group idea seemed to fix itself in very permanent form among the members of the center.

"Our visitors were full of praise of the center; they saw the beneficial effects upon the young people. The boys worked off a great deal of energy that might have been misdirected. They not only were a relaxation to the mind (active games) a change from the day's work; but they stimulated a spirit of wholesome rivalry, taught the boys fairness and self-control. The games gave them companionship and were good physical exercise.

"At a colored school, some of the young people came at first carelessly dressed. They did not want to take off their hats and coats. The girls would say they had not fixed their hair, their waists were soiled, and the boys made similar excuses about their appearances. Gradually they learned to dress up and take a pride in how they looked. On the closing evening they wore their best clothes and some of the boys wore flowers in their buttonholes.

"They learned to be more orderly. Instead of leaving the checkers scattered about, they were put back in the boxes. Much

PHILADELPHIA'S NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

better care was taken of all of the table games. In the games they played more fairly, left out mean tricks and followed the rules. They were more friendly to each other and learned to take better care of the school building.

"There was an improvement in politeness and consideration of the teachers. The young people listened more respectfully to suggestions made and learned to be more quiet in their manners.

"The police who came to the center were unanimous in their praise of it. They thought it was of the greatest value to the young people of the community, and to the community itself. It kept them off the streets and gave them good, clean, wholesome recreation."

"We have seen remarkable improvement in two young men who have regularly attended the center. On their admission one of the class leaders drew attention to the two boys, eighteen and nineteen years old, unkempt, untidy and in the language of the street 'tough.' The leader felt they might cause trouble, 'start something' and wondered if wise to allow them to attend. Nothing but the roughest kind of ball throwing appealed to them—for the other activities they cared little. With their regular attendance came a marked change in their appearance. They began to come in their best attire and when so dressed did not care for the volley ball for fear of possible damage to their clothing. One donated a piece of popular music—the other who could play the piano by ear volunteered to assist and played for another boy who did a clogdance, at the closing entertainment.

"The police officer tells me that the nights on which the center was open no boys were to be found on the street corners in the neighborhood."

"Across the street from the center, a large dance hall, a pool room and a corner-lounging cigar store, give evidence of the fact that the love of pleasure has fallen easy victim to commercialization. The influences in all three of these places are as bad as the attractions are strong, and the fact that these attractions are passed by on two evenings of the week for the cleaner, more healthful pleasures of a recreation center is an indication that the city's interest in the recreation of its citizens is not misplaced. At first the boys would wear their hats in the building, wander from one group to another, speak out irrelevantly in order to attract attention to themselves. In general, it may be said that they do not know how to enjoy themselves. It must be said, however, that they respond

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to suggestion and direction when this is given in the proper sympathetic and friendly fashion. One can see emerging gradually the little refinements of social intercourse as well as a respect for law and order as it is seen that these things aid in cooperative activities. Coming into the center for pure amusement, these young people gain insensibly a new point of view, a new spirit, a new ideal which, if the associations could continue long enough, must have permanent effect upon their characters."

"One particularly unruly, disagreeable boy learned valuable lessons. As he mingled with the other boys and discovered that they were good-natured, mostly, that quarrelsome people were unpopular, that the fellow who cheated was not wanted in the games and so forth, our protégé underwent reformation. Before the close of the season he was a worthy member of the center, and we all felt justly proud of what 'play under right conditions' could do for a misguided youth. In time he sought work, and then it was that his mother found out what had wrought the change in him. I have never seen a more grateful soul than she, when she came one night to express her appreciation of our efforts and her approbation of recreation centers in general. Her remark was, 'It's lots better to give the boys something right to do at night than to have them watched and arrested when they do what isn't right.'"

The leader or teacher in recreation must thoroughly know the tools with which he must work, the channels of approach, the means to the end. These are some of the activities:—

Games	Occupation Play or	Social Recreation
Play apparatus	Hand Craft	Entertainments,
Gymnastics	Sand Play	Lectures
Athletics	Modeling	Tramping
Aquatics	Storytelling	Camping
Bathing	Dramatics	Outings
Dancing	Musical Recreation	Celebrations
Swimming	Pageantry	Club Organizations
		Amusements

These are simply major headings, so to speak, for each activity is divided into numerous different forms and gradations. The fact that so much material is at hand for the recreation worker to use, makes the work most interesting. The intelligent

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leader will diagnose the case, then select and apply the proper prescription.

But let us consider this more deeply. It may appear at first thought that all that is necessary in recreation is to hand out these activities in packages, so to speak, to the smiling line of patrons and all is well. But how carefully the physician makes his diagnosis and thoughtfully prescribes for the patient! Yes, but that is important, you say; the person is sick. True, but so are the hundreds and thousands of children and adults who frequent or who should frequent the playgrounds, recreation centers and public baths. They may be weak, if not actually sick *physically*, many are very sick *morally*; others have a seriously deceased *social* view point, and with *characters* dying before they have had even a chance to start to grow. There is an epidemic of *criminal tendencies* spreading in that alley gang and a *general apathy* toward neighborliness and friendliness in the community. *Petty prejudice* is afflicting the *CITY* while the circulation of the *NATION'S PATRIOTISM* is in need of acceleration. Perhaps the recreation worker can change such conditions where they exist? At least, he has the proper tools to work with, and has already proven their worth in many instances.

Preparedness is the watchword of the hour. That training which instills in the character of the growing youth obedience, order, courage, love of justice and consideration of others makes for preparedness in the highest sense of the word.

GETTING HOLD OF MILWAUKEE'S NEWSBOYS

P. O. Powell, Supervisor of Street Trades,

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

It is a universally accepted principle in England and America and in the principal countries of Europe that the employment of children under a certain age as bread winners is against the public welfare—a principle which is embodied in child labor laws throughout these countries. In one respect these laws fail to accomplish the purpose that dictated them. They prohibit children from working as employees for a definite wage or commission, but they do not prohibit children of any age from working as independent mer-

GETTING HOLD OF MILWAUKEE'S NEWSBOYS

chants. They leave a certain large class of child labor unprotected. If the child sells newspapers or blacks boots on his own responsibility his earnings are classed as profits, and not as wages. The person or corporation that supplies his merchandise is not responsible for his acts. The title has passed with the transferring of the goods, and the boy is working as a merchant. So, although he is engaged in child labor, and although he is under the age at which children may lawfully be employed for wages, child labor laws have no application to him.

To meet this situation the Street Trades Law was enacted and the Newsboys' Republic organized. A Constitution was drafted and adopted by the newsboys, after the plan of America's tried and honored one, which embraces in itself similar departments, executive, legislative and judicial.

The Street Trades Law of Wisconsin which is considered one of the most progressive in the union took effect January 1st, 1912, having been enacted by the legislature of 1911. It was amended in 1913 for the purpose of transferring the enforcement from the industrial commission to the board of education and for increasing the prohibitory time of selling or peddling on the streets from fourteen to sixteen, after 7:30 p. m.

During the past three years the Street Trades Law of Wisconsin has materially benefited nearly ten thousand boys, who have come under the legal jurisdiction of this department. The object of the work is to prevent the delinquency of a large proportion of children during the so-called critical or adolescent period, by directly controlling the money-earning power of the street trader and by refusing to grant him a permit or by suspending or revoking the same whenever the newsboy becomes delinquent or incorrigible in the home, school or while plying his trade upon the street.

The cost of the work is approximately \$2,000 a year. This amount covers all extra help, stationery and postage. This social agency has a peculiar saving power to the taxpayer, actually saving dollars and cents and in the same turn of the wheel improving the standard of citizenship among the men of tomorrow.

The spirit of self-government prevails in all branches of the organization. The volunteer workers are older boys who act as officers of the Newsboys' Republic. Their efforts are invaluable to the Milwaukee Board of School Directors in aiding the Supervisor of Street Trades to enforce the law in the right manner, teaching their comrades that the law is a friend to every newsboy

GETTING HOLD OF MILWAUKEE'S NEWSBOYS

and not an enemy designed for their destruction. The officers' work on the street, in the alleys, trial board, social centers, public and parochial schools, aggregates such large proportions that the city would be forced to engage two or more deputies to perform similar work.

What can better demonstrate the value of such big work as this which is conducted by boys, for boys, than by saying to you that in the year 1911, seventy-six out of one hundred forty-three inmates of the Wisconsin Industrial School for boys were newsboys and by investigation made June first, 1914, it was found that the number has been decreased to three newsboys. These figures speak for themselves. It means a better class of newsboys, which will mean an improved standard of citizenship in the future, the right introduction of law to the future American before it is too late, and a saving of nearly \$15,000 per annum which it would cost to maintain these boys in a state institution.

It should be the duty of every public-spirited person to prevent the haling of juvenile offenders into court for mere technical violations, thus possibly causing the beginning of a criminal career, that might have been avoided had the law and the child met on a fair basis.

The Newsboys' Trial Board has handled nearly 1,500 cases which under the law are technical violations and the offenders could be summoned into the juvenile court. This number is compared with three cases brought before the juvenile tribunal by this department. The cost of handling each case in court is nearly \$5,000 and the saving to the state can be clearly noted.

The department legally controls approximately 4,000 peddlers, sellers, bill boys and bootblacks, under the condition set forth in the law.

All in all, the Supervisor of Street Trades is a policeman, factory inspector, social worker, attendance officer, probation officer and everything else you may name him, having control of the boys on the street, in school and at home, a sort of second-handed father to a vast number of boys who are inclined by the natural trend of their environment to become delinquent during their adolescent period. The probation system of the Republic has accomplished vast amounts of work.

As a pioneer project many difficulties and hardships had to be encountered and overcome. In establishing such a big piece of work, it was necessary to work hard to adjust the grievances of news-

GETTING HOLD OF MILWAUKEE'S NEWSBOYS

papermen and school authorities, and to cope with the problem of securing the enforcement of the law among the newsboys themselves.

Milwaukee has a fine group of circulation men and as members of the Senate of the Newsboys' Republic, they have done much towards securing the results accomplished by this department. They are now convinced that the Street Trades Law is a benefit to them instead of a menace, as some had anticipated. The supply of carriers has increased and the standard of efficiency among all the newsboys of Milwaukee has improved remarkably.

The school authorities and private citizens have heartily cooperated in helping to solve the many problems which were confronted during the past three years.

Indoor track meets, newsboys' congress and the trial board, together with the various mass meetings and clubs are held in the various social centers. It is the ambition of the Republic officials eventually to reach all the newsboys of Milwaukee through the social center and playground activities. A paper called the *The Newsboys' World* is published by the Republic.

The Republic conducts a lively outdoor track meet in the spring and a playground ball league in the summer, thereby keeping in touch with the newsboys all-year-round. One of the most important duties that falls on the Supervisor is the school inspections which are made two times each year in all large schools and once in the smaller institutions. A newsboy must do satisfactory work in order to retain his badge. His school records are thoroughly investigated together with his badges and permits.

Probably one of the best movements to organize all the licensed street traders into a close band of fellowship is now on foot, launched during the past month in the eight social center boys' clubs. It is known as the Knights of the Canvas Bag. Space will not permit the writer to go into detail, but the scheme is designed for newsboys exclusively. Three tests are embodied in the movement together with a grip, sign, motto, song and yell. It has all the earmarks of a successful movement for newsboys in the social centers and playgrounds.

Milwaukee hopes to do bigger things for her newsboys, but so far it has been proved to the satisfaction of shrewd taxpayers that the Street Trades Department is a much-needed adjunct to the administration of juvenile problems and a constructive agency for the betterment of humanity.

PHILADELPHIA'S EVENING RECREATION CENTERS

(Conducted by the Board of Recreation with cooperation of Board of Public Education)

Year ending March 31, 1916

January - February - March, 1916

SCHOOL	Sessions held	No. of Leaders Average per session					Number of groups average per session	AVERAGE PER SESSION								Total Male and Female Per official leader Board of Recreation	
		On Pay Roll Board of Recreation	On Pay Roll Board of Education	Expenses paid by other organisations	Volunteers	Total		MALE				FEMALE					
								Minor		Adult		Minor		Adult			
								14	14-20	21	Total	14	14-20	21	Total		
								1	2	3	4	5	14	14-20	21		Total
Agnew	26	4	0	4	1	9	8	54	89	7	150	43	43	1	87	237	28
Brown	26	2	0	0	0	2	5	4	66	5	75	2	53	8	63	138	59
Comley	13	2	0	0	1	3	3	8	18	4	30	7	21	11	39	69	30
Cramp	26	4	0	0	0	4	7	0	66	16	82	0	42	5	47	129	34
Curtin	13	3	0	0	0	3	7	0	52	6	58	0	37	14	51	109	36
Durham	13	4	0	0	0	4	7	0	96	2	98	0	58	2	60	158	41
Gilbert	26	2	0	1	0	3	5	7	36	8	51	0	12	6	18	69	29
Kendrick . . .	26	3	0	0	1	4	3	0	63	6	69	0	41	4	45	114	38
Madison	26	3	0	0	0	3	3	0	101	0	101	0	50	0	50	151	41
Marshall . . .	26	4	0	1	0	5	15	0	111	16	127	0	72	7	79	206	51
Pastorius . . .	12	2	0	0	1	3	5	2	45	5	52	3	12	6	21	72	21
Stowe	26	3	0	0	0	3	4	0	62	3	65	0	40	3	43	108	33
Wayne	26	3	0	0	0	3	7	1	71	5	77	0	53	6	59	136	48
Wilson	26	3	0	1	0	4	4	0	94	22	116	0	22	0	22	138	33
Wood	25	4	0	0	0	4	3	0	80	6	86	0	49	1	50	136	33
City		3	0	1	0	4	6	5	73	8	86	4	39	5	48	134	37
Average		3	0	1	0	4	6	5	73	8	86	4	39	5	48	134	37

City Total Schools	Sessions held	Leader Attendances					Group Attendance	TOTAL ATTENDANCE								Total attendance Male and Female
								MALE				FEMALE				
								Minor		Adult		Minor		Adult		
		14	14-20	21	Total	14		14-20	21	Total						
		15.....	336	1059	0	196		56	1311	1974	1843	24062	2636	28541	1332	

Total attendance 1916 - 44,686

Average monthly 1916 - 14,895

Total attendance 5 months 1915 - 61,997

Average monthly attendance 1915 - 12,399

Average monthly gain in 1916 of 2,496

BOOK REVIEWS

CHILDREN'S SONGS OF CITY LIFE

Words by Anna Phillips Lee, music by Sidney Dorlon Lowe. Published by The A. S. Barnes Company, New York and Chicago. Price, \$1.00

Little city children who sing of meadows and buttercups which they have never seen become heirs to story songs about the things they see everyday, touched by fairy wand. The wet street, the postman, the organ grinder and his monkey are all there—and almost a touch of Stevenson lies in the query, "Where does the street go?"

BOOK REVIEWS

THE ART OF BASKET-MAKING

By Thomas Okey. Published by Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd., London and New York

"The aim of this little book is not to turn out expert basket-makers . . . but rather to indicate some governing principles of the art . . . to give elementary instruction in the preparation and nature of material, in terminology and method; to act as a guide to beginners." Tools needed, basic "stitches" and directions for making various articles are given.

THE PLAYGROUND BOOK

By Harry Sperling. Published by the A. S. Barnes Company, New York and Chicago, 1916. Price, \$1.80

The compiler has selected and gives description and music where necessary, of the ten best games in five different playground activities—song games, folk dances, playground athletics, gymnasium games, classroom games. To have the "stand-bys" of the playground all in one book will no doubt be a convenience to the play leader. Brief suggestions upon the how and why of playground activities are presented by Dr. Crampton, Miss Burchenal, General Wingate and other experts in their respective fields. An adequate bibliography is appended.

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Notice is hereby given that an examination for Superintendent of Recreation for the City of Savannah, Georgia, will be held at 10 a. m. December 9, 1916, in the Council Chamber of said city.

The salary of this position will be \$1800.00 per annum.

The examination shall be both oral and written, upon the educational preparation, previous teaching, and recreational experience, theory and practice of games, athletics, gymnastics, folk dancing and music, command of English, character, personality, natural fitness, moral, mental and physical qualifications.

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of American lives is that we
play so little and even when
we do play we sit around and
let other people play for us.

Anna Howard Shaw